

# What Happens

## when juveniles fail to comply with the conditions of the Program?

- The County Attorney's Office will file a petition against the juvenile.
- The juvenile will be required to appear in court.
- If the juvenile is found to have committed the offense, the Court may order the juvenile to pay restitution, perform community work service, attend an educational class, and/or be placed on probation.
- The juvenile will have a court record of being found to have committed the offense.



For more information regarding the Youth Accountability Program, please contact:

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**  
Dakota County Attorney's Office

1560 Highway 55  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033  
(651) 438-4438

[www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney)

**PROPERTY**

## Youth Accountability Program

## Gross Misdemeanor & Felony

**An alternative to Juvenile Court  
for first time offenders**

**JAMES C. BACKSTROM**  
DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY





# Why the

## Youth Accountability Program?

The program offers first time gross misdemeanor and low level felony property juvenile offenders **the opportunity to be diverted from the juvenile justice system prior to any charges being filed against them.**

## Who is Eligible?

- First time offenders of select gross misdemeanor and low level felony property offenses.
- Low level felony offenses are those where the value of the property stolen or damaged is \$2,500 or less.

The final determination of an offender's eligibility for the Youth Accountability Program is within the sole discretion of the Dakota County Attorney's Office.

## The Goals

### of the Program are to:

- Provide an alternative to court proceedings as an incentive to change behavior and reduce repeat offenses.
- Ensure full and prompt payment of restitution to victims.
- Protect public safety by holding offenders accountable to society for their behavior.
- Establish consistent consequences for first time offenders.

## What are the Components of the Program?

- The juvenile must attend an educational class with at least one parent.
- The class focuses on restoration of community values and morals and respect for others, including their property.
- The juvenile must pay a class fee. If a family is financially unable to pay the fee but desires to participate in the class, the juvenile should contact the Program Coordinator.
- Perform community work service.
- Pay restitution to victims in cases where the victim has incurred a loss.

## What Benefits are provided through the Program?

- Parents and juveniles have the opportunity to learn new relationship skills.
- Cost savings are generated by avoiding court appearances and associated paperwork.
- The matter will be treated informally without Juvenile Court involvement.
- The County Attorney's Office will not file a petition against the offender charging him/her with the offense so the offender will not have a court record.